(a) whether it is a fact mat the Prime Minister wrote a letter to him pointing out the various acts of ommissions and commissions perpetrated by the Delhi Development Authority *vis-a-vis* the citizens of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been initiated on the lines as suggested by PM so as to tone up the functioning of the D.D.A. and offer relief to the hapless citizens; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHR1 BANDARU DATTATRAY A): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Based on analysis of representations received in the Prime Minister's Office, Hon'ble Prime Minister, in a recent communication has pointed the problems of a generic nature faced by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) applicants, as well as shortcomings in the mechanism for redressal of grievances. The problems mainly relate to delays encountered in allotment of plots/flats, transfer of registration in favour of legal heirs, refund of registration money, change of address, issue of demand-cum allotment letters, possession letters, etc. and inadequate response from DDA to redress the grievances. DDA has initiated action and examination in depth of cases of delay in public dealing departments. Several short term and long term measures have been initiated by DDA to train its work force, introduce computerization and e-govemance as well as exercising strict vigilance at all levels.

Cheap houses for slum dwellers

129. SHRIKARNENDU BHATT ACHARJEE. Will the Minister ofURBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have plans for building cheap houses for slum dwellers in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the plans for such houses for the slum dwellers in the North East, particularly in Assam; and

(c) whether any funds for the schemes have been sanctioned for the current financial year and if not, by when it is likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE" MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) National Housing and Habitat Policy contemplates the role of a facilitator for the Government without taking on the task of building so far as housing is concerned. This Ministry provides financial and technical support through appropriate agencies like HUDCO, BMTPC etc. for building low cost houses. The Government has recently decided to launch a new scheme known as Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana to provide shelter or upgrade the existing shelter for people below poverty line in urban slums for achieving the goal of "Housing for all" as outlined in the National Housing and Habitat Policy. The details of scheme including the guidelines will be finalised in due course.

Inquiry regarding payment of wrong medical claims in DDA

130. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA has wrongly made payments of lakhs of rupees under medical claims during the year 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the amount of such payments and the names of those who received the payments;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to make an inquiry into this case and to take punitive action against officers responsible for the said payments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the mode to recover the said payment and from whom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (e) The DDA has reported that the matter relating to payments of medical bills is under investigation with Vigilance Department of DDA. Further action would be taken on completion of the investigation and its findings.